IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims having the same number as indicated:

Claims 1 - 16 Cancelled

Please add the following new claims:

17. (New) A process for producing a flexible polyurethane foam for use as mattress, upholstery, or carpet material, said process comprising the steps of:

providing compounds which are reactive toward isocyanates;

providing an isocyanate;

providing at least one organic or inorganic acid anhydride;

mixing the isocyanate and the organic or inorganic acid anhydride outside the presence of the compounds which are reactive toward isocyanates to form a mixture having the acid anhydride in an unreacted state;

reacting the compounds and the mixture in the presence of at least one urethane forming catalyst selected from the group consisting of organic amines and organic metal compounds such that the acid anhydride remains in the unreacted state throughout the reaction of the compounds and the mixture to form the flexible polyurethane foam; and

wherein the flexible polyurethane foam has a density of from 20 to 70 kg/m^3 with the acid anhydride in the unreacted state capable of being hydrolyzed to prevent deterioration of the flexible polyurethane foam when exposed to hot or humid conditions.

18. (New) A process as claimed in claim 17 further comprising the step of providing the acid anhydride in an amount of from 0.01 to 20% by weight, based on the weight of the mixture.

19. (New) A process as claimed in claim 17 further comprising the step of providing the acid anhydride based on one of pyromellitic acid, citraconic acid, itaconic acid, phthalic, isophthalic and/or terephthalic acid, benzonic acid, phenylacetic acid, cyclohexylalkanoic acid, malonic acid, adducts of maleic acid with styrene and/or of maleic acid and alkylenes, succinic acid, maleic acid, polymaleic acid, and glutaric acid.

20. (New) A process as claimed in claim 17 further comprising the step of providing the acid anhydride as a copolymer of one of pyromellitic acid, citraconic acid, itaconic acid, phthalic, isophthalic and/or terephthalic acid, benzonic acid, phenylacetic acid, cyclohexylalkanoic acid, malonic acid, succinic acid, maleic acid, polymaleic acid, and glutaric acid with comonomers which are copolymerizable with these acids.

21. (New) A process as claimed in claim 17 wherein the acid anhydride comprises alicyclic carboxylic acid compounds.

22. (New) A process as claimed in claim 21 wherein the alicyclic carboxylic acid compounds are selected from at least one of pyromellitic acid, phthalic acid, isophthalic acid, terephthalic acid, benzonic acid, phenylacetic acid, and cyclohexylalkanoic acid.

23. (New) A process as claimed in claim 17 wherein the acid anhydride comprises aliphatic carboxylic acid compounds.

24. (New) A process as claimed in claim 23 wherein the aliphatic carboxylic acid compounds are selected from at least one of citraconic acid, itaconic acid, malonic acid, adducts of maleic acid with styrene and/or of maleic acid and alkylenes, succinic acid, maleic acid, polymaleic acid, and glutaric acid.